

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/AT2003/000282



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A2002/01456	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/AT2003/000282	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25 September 2003 (25.09.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65H 7/12		
Applicant TRUMPF MASCHINEN AUSTRIA GMBH & CO. KG.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>6</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of <u>2</u> sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 16 April 2004 (16.04.2004)	Date of completion of this report 03 December 2004 (03.12.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AT2003/000282

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-12 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____ 1-8 _____, filed with the letter of 16 November 2004 (16.11.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/4-4/4 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AT 03/00282

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-8	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. This report makes reference to the following document:

D1: Patent Abstracts of Japan, Vol. 1995, No. 05,
30 June 1995 & JP 07 053095 A (Murata Mach
Ltd), 28 February 1995.

2. Claim 1

- 2.1. D1 is regarded as the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the reference signs in parentheses refer to D1):

a gripping device (14) for a manipulating device (10) for the partial take-up and supply of processing equipment (12) with a workpiece (W) from a provided stack of workpieces with a gripper head equipped with gripping means (suction cups (2a)) and with a detecting device (6) for the workpiece taken up by the gripping means, with a pulse generator (3) acting as a vibration exciter upon the workpiece and with a vibration sensor (4), and with a

storage and analysis module (5) for vibration analysis.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the gripping device disclosed in D1 in that the detecting device and the storage and/or analysis module together form a **modular unit** that is **detachably arranged** on the gripping head and connected via a **bus system** to a **regulation and/or control device** for the processing equipment.

Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 is **novel** (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.2 Therefore, the problems to be solved by the present invention can be regarded as that of

- (i) designing the detecting device such that it, together with the storage and/or analysis module, forms a compact, easily exchangeable and universally usable module unit, and that of
- (ii) evaluating the data detected by the vibration sensor directly on site such that the data transmitted via the bus system to the regulation and control device is restricted to simple information pulses of "yes" or "no".

The solutions to these problems as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involve an **inventive step** (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:

D1 contains nothing that would prompt a person

skilled in the art to develop such solutions. To the contrary, the storage and analysis module (20) appears to be arranged at a distance from the detecting device (6).

3. **Claims 2 to 7**

Claims 2 to 7 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

4. **Claim 8**

Claim 8 defines a method for operating a gripping device according to one of claims 1 to 7. Owing to this clear reference to one of the claims 1 to 7, claim 8 necessarily contains at least all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 8 is novel and inventive.

5. **Industrial applicability**

Claims 1 to 8 meet the PCT requirements for industrial applicability (PCT Article 33(4)).